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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/748,814 | HIGASHIYAMA, HIROSHI | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Hargobind S. Sawhney | 2875 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE filed on January 11, 2006, and the amendment filed on December 14, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 4 and 6-9.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

1. The Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and amendment filed on December 14, 2005 has been entered. Accordingly:

- Claims 2, 3 and 5 have been cancelled; and
- Claim 1 has been amended.

2. Claims 1, 4 and 6-9 are allowed.

The prior art of record, including Yoneda et al. (Japanese Patent No.: JP 2001-143517) and Boller et al. (US Patent No.: 4,096,550), does not show or suggest the applicant's invention as claimed. Specifically, the prior art of record does not disclose a surface-shaped light irradiation device combining:

- a dot light source fixedly positioned in a retaining section, defined within a light guide plate, by an adhesive agent disposed between a surface of the dot light source, other than its flat light emitting surface, and a surface of the retaining section as recited in the amended independent claim 1.

The above-indicated above, including a dot light source having a flat light emitting surface, and the dot light source retained within a retaining section of a light guide with an adhesive agent as detailed above, makes this invention unique.

Yoneda et al. (Japanese Patent No.: JP 2001-143517) – Yoneda - discloses a dot light source with a flat light-emitting surface, and the light source integrally molded within a light guide plate. Yoneda does not teach the bonding of the dot light source surface with the surfaces of the retaining section of the light guide Plate. Therefore, Yoneda does not meet the limitations of the amended independent claim 1.

Boller et al. (US Patent No.: 4,096,550) discloses a dot light source embedded with a light guide plate. However, Boller ('550) does not specifically teach the dot light source including a flat light-emitting surface. Further, Boller ('550) does not teach the use of adhesive agent for fixedly positioning the dot light source within the light guide plate. Therefore, Boller ('550) does not meet the limitations of the amended independent claim 1.

Therefore, the amended independent Claim 1 is allowed over prior art.

Claims 4 and 6-9 are necessarily allowed because of its dependency on the allowed base Claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


Fukazawa (Japanese Patent No.: JP 8-166588A)

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hargobind S Sawhney whose telephone number is 571 272 2380. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:15 - 2:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571 272 2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HSS
3/10/2006


ALI ALAVI
PRIMARY EXAMINER